

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR] : No, Sir, there is no such proposal.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has no proposal been made by any other Government ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I have already said that there is no such proposal.

#### APPOINTMENT OF "PANIWALA MAHARAJ"

\*2Q. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the salary paid to 'Paniwala Maharaj', the water diviner ;

(b) for how many years he was in service ; and

(c) in how many cases his advice was found useful and in how many cases it was not found to be so ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) The Paniwala Maharaj received an honorarium of Rs. 2,300 p.m.

(b) Two years and 8 months.

(c) According to the information available with the Rajasthan Underground Water Board, 128 sites were selected by the Paniwala Maharaj. Wells were dug at 29 sites and water was found in 21 of them.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Does the hon. Member know, according to the information he has given in the House, it would cost over Rs. 30,000 before digging a well ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a question of calculation.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that the Government considered this Paniwala Maharaj as a great hoax ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a question of opinion.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the hon. Minister let us know what results were achieved ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think the results were not commensurate with the expenditure.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Who was responsible for the appointment ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Who was responsible for keeping the man for such a long period knowing it was a hoax on the Government ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the hon. Member enquire as to who is responsible for this hoax and take suitable action ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : All men are liable to make mistakes.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : What are the qualifications of this Paniwala Maharaj, and how did he find water ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU : Will the hon. Minister let us know whether this gentleman who was receiving an honorarium of only Rs. 2,300 per mensem, was an American or an Indian ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Very much an Indian, I believe.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Was he paid any travelling allowance ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : If my hon. friend is perturbed about the expenditure, I might add that we recovered Rs. 33,350 from the Saurashtra Government and we lent his advice to others at the rate of Rs. 150 per

day. He was paid T.A. at one and a half first class railway fare plus Rs. 12-8-0 per day as D.A.

SHRIAUTI VIOLET ALVA : Will the hon. Minister say what were the qualifications, experience, credentials and age of this Paniwala Maha-raj ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I have already stated, some facts.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Will the hon. Minister kindly say what this Paniwala Maharaj was prior to his appointment in the Government ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I have no knowledge.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : How did the Auditor-General pass these bills, as he seems to have done, so liberally ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can get it from the Public Accounts Committee Reports.

SHRI B. GUPTA : This is the first time that we come across such a Maharaj. We have heard of so many Maharajas. Will the hon. Minister kindly let us have more particular about this Paniwala Maharaj ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order order.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Is the Government aware of the fact that they have spent Rs. 2,300 per month to search a place for water. Cannot our scientists find that thing ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order. It is an argument. Next question.

#### FOODGRAINS FOR 1952

♦30. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of foodgrains that was carried over for the year 1952;

(b) the total amount of rice, wheat and millets imported by Government till the end of September 1952 ; and

(c) the quantity of rice, wheat and millets procured by Government during the period January to September 1952 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M.V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) 13.37 lakh tons.

	(In '000 tons)
(b) Rice . . . .	603
Wheat (including wheat flour) . . . .	2,383
Milo . . . .	616
<b>Total</b> . . . .	<b>3,602</b>

	(In '000 tons)
(c) Rice . . . .	1,624
Wheat . . . .	785
Others . . . .	516
<b>Total</b> . . . .	<b>2,925</b>

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: What are the countries with which Government have entered into agreement for the supply of rice and wheat ?

SHRI M.V. KRISHNAPPA : Wheat, we get mostly from the international wheat pool. Regarding rice, we have entered into agreement with Burma, only not with Thailand and China. With Burma we have an agreement according to which Burma has agreed to supply us 2½ lakh tons of rice.